



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7452

October 20, 2006

MARGARET LEACHMAN HONORED AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that Assistant United States Attorney Margaret Leachman was honored by the U.S. Department of Justice for her outstanding leadership in the El Paso Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas.

Today, the Department of Justice held its 23rd annual Executive Office for United States Attorney's Director's Awards Ceremony, during which 154 award recipients were recognized for their excellence in law enforcement. Recipients included Assistant United States Attorneys, litigation and information technology support personnel, and others who have made outstanding contributions in federal, state and local law enforcement.

Ms. Leachman received a nationwide award for Superior Performance in a Managerial or Supervisory Role for leading the office's El Paso Division during a time of enormous demand and complexity. The El Paso Division handled more than half of the 5,000 cases against 6,500 defendants filed in the Western district of Texas last in fiscal year 2005.

"Today's award recipients are honored for their extraordinary commitment to protecting our communities, promoting justice and preserving the civil liberties that make our country so great," said Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales. "It is through their dedicated efforts and sacrifice that we are able to preserve justice for our communities, our nation and for future generations."

While terrorism remains the top priority of the Department of Justice, the Department has continued its mission to enforce all of our Nation's laws, including prosecuting civil rights violations, gang violence and drug crimes, as well as representing our client agencies, conducting civil enforcement, and assisting victims of crime.

"Margaret Leachman is one of the most talented and hard working prosecutors in the country. The people of El Paso are very lucky to have a person of such outstanding quality and character leading the United States Attorney's Office in El Paso," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. "Today, Margaret received some well deserved recognition for her superior performance as chief federal prosecutor of the El Paso Division."

The Executive Office for United States Attorneys provides oversight, general executive assistance, and direction to the 94 United States Attorneys' Offices around the country.

#####